

Practitioner's Docket No. MPI00-456P1RM

USSN: 09/927,112

In the Specification:

On page 2, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 3 as follows:

Accordingly, in one aspect, the invention features a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a 32544 protein or polypeptide, e.g., a biologically active portion of the 32544 protein. In a preferred embodiment, the isolated nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2. In other embodiments, the invention provides an isolated 32544 nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1[.] or SEQ ID NO:3; ~~or the sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC Accession Number _____~~. In still other embodiments, the invention provides nucleic acid molecules that are substantially identical (e.g., naturally occurring allelic variants) to the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1[.] or SEQ ID NO:3; ~~or the sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC Accession Number _____~~. In other embodiments, the invention provides a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under stringent hybridization conditions to a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1[.] or SEQ ID NO:3; ~~or the sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC Accession Number _____~~, wherein the nucleic acid encodes a full length 32544 protein or an active fragment thereof.

On page 3, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 8 as follows:

In other embodiments, the invention provides 32544 polypeptides, e.g., a 32544 polypeptide having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2; ~~the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC Accession Number _____~~; an amino acid sequence that is substantially identical to the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2; or an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent hybridization conditions to a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1[.] or SEQ ID NO:3; ~~or the sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC Accession Number _____~~, wherein the nucleic acid encodes a full length 32544 protein or an active fragment thereof.